



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1645-MC

DATE: March 30, 2016

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physician Assistants (PAs) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Enrollment and Payment Policies for PA Services

EFFECTIVE: April 1, 2016

Currently under Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS), enrollment of PAs is limited to “ordering and referring” providers, as required by and consistent with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), Section 6401. PAs are not otherwise able to bill and be paid directly under their own National Provider Identification (NPI) numbers. Instead, payment for services rendered by PAs is made to the employing/supervising physician, or to the clinic employing the PA. In the case of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) employing a PA, the FQHC or RHC bills for the PA services, as an FQHC (or RHC) service, under the FQHC’s or RHC’s provider number and is paid an encounter.

Effective April 1, 2016, the MCOs will follow the same payment policies for PA services, as are applicable under FFS. The MCOs are being required to list PAs as network providers in their provider directories. This would affect PAs who are employed by or otherwise affiliated with physicians, clinics, or hospitals enrolled with the MCOs.

The IME appreciates your participation. If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us or the applicable MCO.